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**FROM**      **NAME:**      **Ozzie A. Farres, Reg. No. 43,606**  
         **FLOOR:**  
         **DIRECT DIAL:**      **(202) 955-1923**

**MESSAGE**      Attached please find the following regarding **U.S. Patent Application No. 10/643,878**  
         1. Response to Office Action - 12 pages;  
         3. Fax Cover Sheet - 1 page;  
         4. Certificate of Transmission - 1 page.

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**OPERATOR**

**DATE:**      **December 26, 2006**  
**TIME:**  
**CLIENT/MATTER NAME:**      **Medtronic**  
**CLIENT/MATTER NO.:**      **64118.000036**

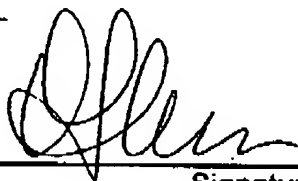
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Attorney Docket No. 64118.000036  
Application Serial No: 10/643,878

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Patent Application  
Attorney Docket No.: 64118.00036

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application Number : 10/643,878 Confirmation No.: 5214  
Applicant : Kevin T. FOLEY et al.  
Filed : August 20, 2003  
Title : SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SECURING A PLATE TO THE  
SPINAL COLUMN  
TC/Art Unit : 3731  
Examiner: : Daniel Jacob DAVIS  
Attorney Docket No. : 64118.000036  
Customer No. : 21967

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Applicants respectfully request a 2-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for responding to the Office Action mailed on July 24, 2006, in the above-captioned application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the time for response be extended up to and including December 26, 2006. Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0206 in the amount of \$450.00 to cover the 2-month extension of time fee. In the event of any variance between the amount enclosed and the fees determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge or credit any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

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01 FC:1252 450.00 DA

In response to the Office Action dated July 24, 2006, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the following remarks, which are believed to place the above-identified patent application in condition for allowance or in better form for consideration on appeal.